

**CLAIMS**

1. A data retrieval system comprising:
  - a first computing device communicatively coupled to a second computing device;
  - the first computing device having a processor that supports operation of at least one software application that is used for retrieving data;
  - the second computing device communicatively coupled to one or more storage media;
  - the software application having a retrieval module for retrieving data from the one or more storage media;
  - a storage and backup map that maps to the second computing device; and
  - a data index stored on the second computing device that indicates to the retrieval module a particular location of the data that is to be retrieved by the retrieval module.